

Mooney M20C, N7133J

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/99 Ref: EW/G99/03/13 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Mooney M20C, N7133J

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-AID piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date & Time (UTC): 14 March 1999 at 1400 hrs

Location: Cardinham (Bodmin) Airfield, Cornwall

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to propeller and main landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 756 hours (of which 152 were on type)
Last 90 days - 5 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot planned to take off from the grass Runway 32 which had an available take-off run of 610 metres and a slight up-slope. The grass was damp, the surface wind was 210°/05 kt and the aircraft was 96 kg below its Maximum Take-Off Weight. The pilot elected not to use the first 20 metres of the runway because he considered that it was unsuitable. Initial acceleration was slow and after lift-off, the aircraft failed to gain sufficient speed for the pilot to initiate a climb. The aircraft contacted a large area of bushes located just beyond the end of the runway and decelerated rapidly before coming to rest.

The pilot had not made any take-off performance calculations as he considered that, on past experience, there would be adequate runway available.